

supported by three-fifths of all of the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 16, 1947.

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CHAPTER 507.

(Senate Bill 164)

AN ACT to add a new Article to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), to be under title "Housing Rent Control", said new Article to be known as Article 44C and to follow immediately after Article 44B of said Code authorizing the cities and counties of the State to provide for emergency housing rent control, including practices relating to changes in form or quality, and for this purpose to exercise the police powers of the State.

SECTION 1. *Beit enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland.* That a new Article be and it is hereby added to the Annotated Code of Maryland (1939 Edition), to be under title "Housing Rent Control", said new Article to be known as "Article 44C, to follow immediately after Article 44B of said Code, and to read as follows:

ARTICLE 44C.

1. It is hereby declared that a public emergency may exist in the housing of a considerable number of persons in certain sub-divisions and areas of the State, in the event the federal law regulating the rental of dwellings is permitted to expire according to the terms of such law; and in order to prevent any hardships and perils and to avoid any serious consequences of the failure of Congress to continue or extend rent regulation and control, the provisions of this Article are declared to be necessary and designed to protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

2. (a) For the purpose of preventing the consequences hereinbefore described and to make effective the policy of the State as declared in Section 1 of this Article, the Mayor and City Council of every city and the County Commissioners of every county in this State are hereby authorized and empowered, by ordinance or resolution, to